MOST COLOSSAL ANIMAL EVER ON EARTH JUST FOUND OUT WEST.

Discovery in Wyoming of the Remains of a Gigantic Brontosaurus, the Most Stupendous Thing Ever Alive—130 Feet in Length, with a Tail 60 Feet Long, Height 45 Feet, and Big Enough Inside to Hold 40 Men.

Photograph of the 8-Foot Thigh Bone of the Monster Discovered in Wyoming.

THE largest creature that has ever been known to walk the earth has been discovered in Wyoming.

It is a Brontosaurus, a reptile belonging to the extinct order of Dinosaurs, which occupied the earth ages before man appeared.

This Brontosaurus was 130 feet in length and weighed probably 120,000 pounds.

Its discoverer is Professor W. H. Reeder, of the Wyoming State University. That State is the greatest burial ground of Dinosaurs in the world.

When the Brontosaurus walked, the earth trembled. One man cannot lift its smallest bone. Its petrified skeleton weighs 40,000 pounds. Forty persons could be seated with comfort within its ribs.

Standing on its hind legs it would have measured a hundred feet in length and could have looked into the eleventh story window of the New York Life Insurance building.

When It Walked the Earth Trembled Under Its Weight of 120,000 Pounds.

When It Ate It Filled a Stomach Large Enough to Hold Three Elephants.

at Brontosaurus, the greatest animal that ever lived, as he appeared when he caused the earth to tremble.

Brontosaurus was 35 feet in height at the hips and 25 feet at the shoulders. Its smallest bone is too great for one man to lift.

Professor Reeder calculates that in life it weighed about 120,000 pounds. Its fossil remains weigh more than 40,000 pounds. Its thigh bone is eight feet in length. Its ribs are each nine feet in length and the space within them is thirty four feet in length, sixteen feet in width and twelve feet in height. The joints of its backbone are sixteen inches across the centre.

When Brontosaurus stood on its hind legs, which it frequently did, in order to look over the landscape, its head was about one hundred feet in the air. At this rate it could have looked in at the eleventh story of the New York Life Insurance building.

Brontosaurus could have walked across the North River and merely wet its feet.

The largest fossil remains hitherto known to exist were those of the Brontosaurus restored by Professor Marsh and now in Yale University. It was also found in Wyoming and created a great sensation in its day. It measures only seventy feet or little more than half the new Brontosaurus and in life must have weighed 40,000 pounds less than that animal.

Brontosaurus lived in the Mesozoic period, when reptiles almost monopolized the earth. They were the people, so to speak. That was millions of years before man appeared on the earth. The Mesozoic is the second of the great geological periods, starting from the creation of the earth. Before the reptiles appeared only invertebrate animals and fishes occupied the earth.

These reptiles were in shape fantastic beyond the wildest conception of the imagination. They were mostly quite different from any existing reptiles. Some looked like hideous caricatures of the mammals of the present day. Many of them were armored with enormous horny plates and great spines along the back and around the head. Such creatures could not have been demolished by anything less than heavy artillery. They had jaws in which they could have crushed an elephant as easily as a cat crushes a mouse. Many were carnivorous.

There is a strange similarity between the dragons which are found in the primitive legends of all races and those prehistoric reptiles. The suggestion has been made that some of the monsters survived until th eearly ages of man, but although this is discountenanced by science, there remains a mystery which is far from being solved.

Among these monsters Brontosaurus, though the largest, was far from being the most formidable. Probably its carcass furnished food to its ferocious and carnivorous neighbors. It had neither armor, spikes nor great jaws.

The remarkably small head is indeed one of themost striking features of Brontosaurus, and presents a curious contrast to the large and formidable skulls possessed by some other forms. But it is clear that no animal with such a long neck as this creature could have borne the weight of a heavy skull. Short, thick necks and heavy skulls always go together. Indeed, the weight of the long neck itself would have been serious had it not been for the fact that the vertebrae in this part of the skeleton, and as far as the region of the tail, have large cavities in the sides of the centra.

This cavernous structure of the vertebra gradually decreases toward the tail. The cavities communicate, with a series of internal cavities, which give a kind of honeycombed structure to the whole vertebrae. This arrangement affords a combination of strength and lightness in the massive supports required for the large ribs, limbs and muscles such as could not have been provided by any other plan.

The body of Brontosaurus was comparatively short, with a fairly large paunch. The legs and feet were strong and massive, and the limb-bones solid. As if partly to balance the neck, we find a long and powerful tail, in which the vertebrae are nearly all solid.

In most Dinosaurs the fore-limbs are small compared to the hind limbs. It is hardly possible that Brontosaurus walked on its hind legs, as many of the Dinosaurs did. But, at the same time, we may believe that occasionally it assumed a more erect position; and the light hollowed structure of the vertebrae in the fore part of the body may have imparted such lightness as made it possible for the creature to assume such attitudes.

There can be little doubt that many other fierce and formidable Dinosaurs were living at the same time and in the same region with Brontosaurus. How this apparently helpless and awkward animal escaped in the struggle for existence it is not easy to conjecture; but since there is reason to believe it was more or less at home in the water, and could use its powerful tail in swimming, we may perhaps find a way out of the difficulty by supposing that, when alarmed by dangerous flesh-eating foes, it took to water and found discretion to be the better part of valor. Although presumably stupid, Brontosaurus probably possessed some cunning, and we can fancy it stretching its long neck above reeds, ferns and cycads to get a view of the approaching enemy.

The sight of a flesh-eating ceratosaurus dining off a gigantic Brontosaurus must have been truly blood curdling.

The greatest student of Dinosaurs is Professor Marsh, of Yale. From 1877 until 1888 he had field parties continually at work in Wyoming. During the greater part of the period this work was in charge of Professor Reeder, who is the discoverer of all of the largest Dinosaurs known.

In the Summer of 1894 the University of Wyoming began work in the field to secure a complete collection of fossil remains of these great animals. During the past three years Professor Reeder has spent his entire Summers in this work of collection, with the result that he has brought to the Western university more than fifty tons of the bones of these huge reptiles.

His recent great discovery is believed to make the university's collection of reptilian fossils the greatest in the world. The Wyoming fossil beds, as far as is known, are confined to Albany and Carbon counties, in the south central part of the State. The bones are usually found in banks of clay or marl, but occasionally in beds of sandstone. It is not an unusual thing to find a bone bed four or five feet in thickness, with the bones so close together and so mixed up that it is almost impossible to take them out and restore them to a normal place in the body.

At one time in its history Wyoming had numerous fresh water lakes and a climate that was semi-tropical. At this time the Dinosaurs are believed to have inhabited these lakes and swamps in myriads. The animals sank into the mud when they died and their bones were covered over with other deposits and became petrified. The large fossil beds are found where, at one time, are supposed to have been the mouths of great rivers. The animals after death floated down these rivers, whence they were deposited in these estuaries, thus accounting for the vast deposits in certain places.

It is believed that in the course of geological ages these animals became covered with perhaps 20,000 feet of rock. The process by which the Rocky Mountains were formed tilted these beds, and subsequent erosion has brought to light the burying ground of millions of years ago.

The Dinosaurs appear to have most relationship among modern animals to great birds, such as ostriches and to crocodiles. Before the regular warm-blooded birds appeared on earth some of the Dinosaurs grew wings and made the air frightful. The resemblance of others to crocodiles is obvious.

Professor Owen points out that the crocodiles, when swimming, place their legs flat and motionless against the body. Their chief swimming organ is the tail. Most of the Dinosaurs have the crocodilian swimming organ.

One of the most terrible looking Dinosaurs ever discovered was the Ceratosaurus. It had an enormous horn on its nose, and its great jaws were each provided with fifteen long, sharp tusks, indicating its ferocious and carnivorous nature. Its eyes were protected by overhanging flaps.

This animal was doubtless a bitter enemy of Brontosaurus, which, as Professor Reeder points out, was capable of being cut up into steaks thirty-five feet in circumference.

Brontosaurus, with its 130 feet of length, must have been a shining mark to the carnivorous community.

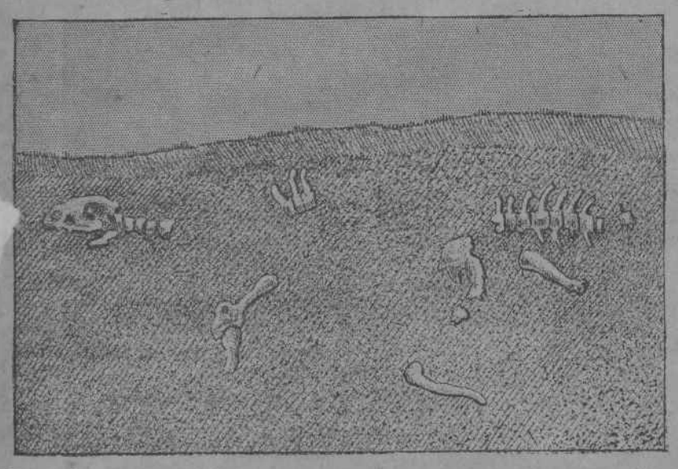
When It Was Angry Its Terrible Roar Could Be Heard Ten Miles.

When It Stood Up Its Height Was Equal to Eleven Stories of a Sky-Scraper.

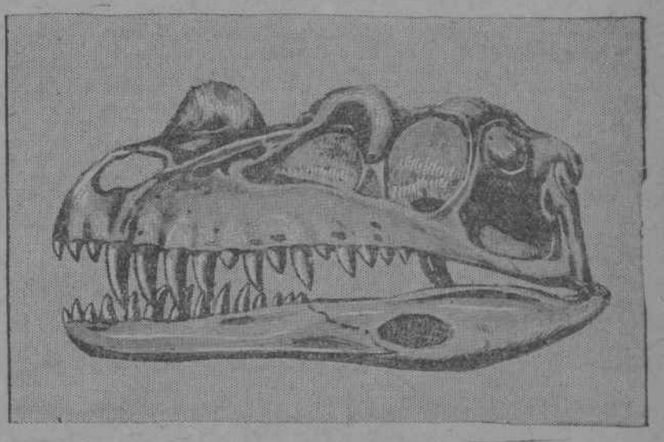
(Drawn from a Picture of a Member of the Same Family in Hutchinson's "Creatures of Other Days." Copyright, 1894, by D. Appleton & Co.)

How the Brontosaurus Giganteus Would Look If It Were Alive and Should Try to Peep Into the Eleventh Story of the New York Life Building.

Footprints of the Brontosaurus a Yard Square Found in the Solid Rock.



Fossilized Bones of Brontosaurus as Found in Alluvial Gravel.



Skull of the Brontosaurus in Wyoming.

NCE this earth was peopled almost exclusively by reptiles. Some of them were so gigantic that their size would make a modern elephant look like a mouse.

The most gigantic of all these gigantic creatures has just been discovered in Wyoming. It is a Brontosaurus, belonging to the order of Dinosaurs. Its length from head to tail in life must have been 130 feet, and its weight 120,000 pounds.

It was the greatest creature that is known to have ever lived. When it walked the earth trembled.

The fossil remains of the Brontosaurus have been discovered by Assistant Professor W. H. Reeder, of the Department of Geology, Wyoming State University. He has been associated with Professor O. C. Marsh, of Yale, who is recognized as the greatest living authority on Dinosaurs.

Wyoming has long been known as the greatest burial ground of extinct monsters in the world. Their remains have been found in certain places by the hundred, so that ages before man appeared on earth the United States of North America must have enjoyed a reputation for big things like that which it possesses now.

The word Dinosaur is derived from the Greek deinos—terrible, and sauros—a lizard. The Brontosaurus was a species of Dinosaur and its name is compounded of the words bronte—thunder, and sauros—a lizard. This means probably that the Brontosaurus produced thunder when it walked. Its voice could be heard ten miles away.

The record breaking Brontosaurus was found by Professor Reeder eighty miles northwest of Laramie. He is engaged in putting the bones together so that we shall be able to look

SCIENTIST'S CONCEPTION OF THE GIGANTIC BRONTOSAURUS IN LIFE.

By the Discoverer of the Monster, Assistant Professor Reeder, Department of Geology, Wyoming State University.

ACCORDING to my opinion, I should say that the animal now being brought to light would weigh in life about sixty tons, that he had a neck 30 feet in length and a tail perhaps 60 feet in length.

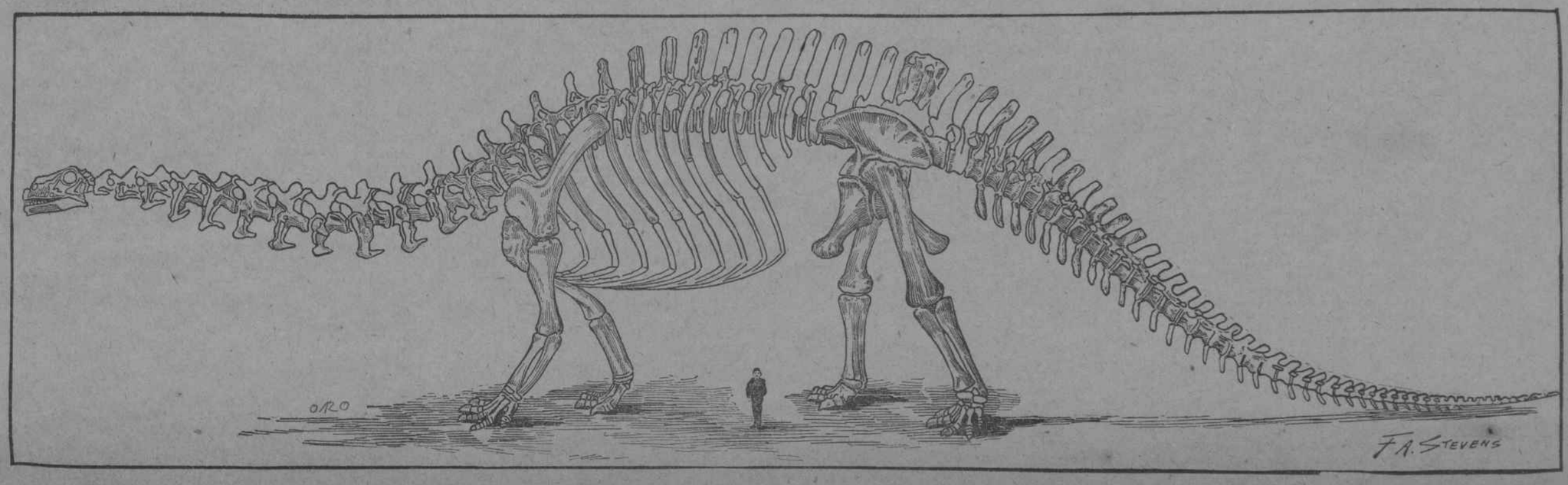
His ribs are about 9 feet in length and the cavity of his body, with lungs and entrails out, would make a hall 34 feet in length, 16 feet in width and arched over probably 12 feet in height. Such a space, if properly arranged, would seat at least forty people.

A round steak taken from a ham of the animal would have been at least 12 feet in diameter, or more than 35 feet in circumference, and would have had a solid bone in the middle 12x14 inches, with no hollow for marrow.

A column of fours in cavalry could easily have ridden abreast between his front and hind legs, provided he had not objected. Every time he put his foot down it covered more than a square yard of ground, and must have fairly shaken the earth.

The smallness of the head of this animal is a peculiar thing. I should say that the head of this mighty dinosaur was probably not larger than a ten-gallon keg. He must have been a very sluggish creature, as the brain cavity would certainly not warrant the belief that his brain weighed to exceed four or five pounds.

Skeleton of the 60-Ton Brontosaurus When Restored by Professor Reeder.



A Tail 60 Feet, a Body 40 Feet, a Neck 30 Feet, and a Very Small Head and Brain.